

CLAIMS

2 The invention claimed is:

3 1. A retractable tether for a pet, comprising:

4 a) a collar;

5 b) a leash; and

6 c) a pair of retractors;

7 wherein said leash is retractably connected to said collar by said
8 pair of retractors.

9 2. The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said collar is slender;
10 and

11 wherein said collar is elongated.

12 3. The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said collar has a pair of
13 ends;

14 wherein said collar has a ring; and

15 wherein said ring of said collar is attached to the first end of
16 said collar by said first end of said collar passing therethrough,
17 doubling back onto itself, and being affixed to itself.

18 4. The tether as defined in claim 3, wherein the second end of said
19 collar passes freely through said ring of said collar, doubles back
20 onto itself, and is adjustably and replaceably affixed to itself by
21 hook and loop fasteners; and

22 wherein said hook and loop fasteners of said collar are disposed on
23 facing surfaces of said second end of said collar.

24 5. The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said leash is slender;
25 wherein said leash is elongated.

- 1 6. The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said leash has a pair of
2 ends; and
3 wherein said pair of ends of said leash are operatively connected
4 to said pair of retractors, respectively.
- 5 7. The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said pair of retractors
6 are diametrically opposed to each other; and
7 wherein said pair of retractors are attached to said collar.
- 8 8. The tether as defined in claim 6, wherein each retractor comprises
9 a housing;
10 wherein each retractor comprises a retracting mechanism;
11 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is operatively
12 connected within said housing of an associated retractor; and
13 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is operatively
14 connected to an associated end of said leash.
- 15 9. The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said housing of each
16 retractor is generally cylindrically-shaped; and
17 wherein said housing of each retractor extends generally normally
18 to said collar.
- 19 10. The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said housing of each
20 retractor has a slit;
21 wherein said slit in said housing of each retractor extends axially
22 therealong; and
23 wherein said leash extends through said slit in said housing of each
24 retractor.
- 25 11. The tether as defined in claim 10, wherein said retracting mechanism
26 of each retractor comprises an axle; and

- 1 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor comprises a
2 recoilable spring.
- 3 12. The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein said axle of said
4 retracting mechanism of each retractor extends axially within said
5 housing of said retracting mechanism of an associated retractor;
6 wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each retractor
7 extends rotatably within said housing of said retracting mechanism
8 of said associated retractor; and
9 wherein an end of said leash extends through said slit in said
10 housing of said associated retractor and is attached to said axle
11 of said retracting mechanism of said associated retractor.
- 12 13. The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein said recoilable spring
13 of said retracting mechanism of each retractor operatively connects
14 said axle of said retracting mechanism of an associated retractor
15 to said housing of said associated retractor.
- 16 14. The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein said recoilable spring
17 of said retracting mechanism of each retractor allows said leash to
18 freely recoil and be automatically wrapped around said axle of said
19 retracting mechanism of an associated retractor when tension is
20 removed from said leash.
- 21 15. The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein each retractor comprises
22 a ratchet mechanism.
- 23 16. The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein said ratchet mechanism
24 of each retractor operatively connects said axle of said retracting
25 mechanism of an associated retractor to said housing of said
26 associated retractor.

1 17. The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein said ratchet mechanism
2 of each retractor does not allow said leash to freely recoil and be
3 automatically wrapped around said axle of said retracting mechanism
4 of an associated retractor when tension is removed from said leash,
5 but rather requires an initial tug on said leash and maintaining
6 tension thereon to release said ratchet mechanism of said associated
7 retractor to cause said leash to wrap around said axle of said
8 retracting mechanism of said associated retractor.